



Goodwin's Weekly

"A Thinking Paper for Thinking People"

EUROPE REGARDS WILSON AS A BUNGLER

HOWEVER just the theory back of President Wilson's action, he appears to have made the most disastrous blunder of the peace conference when he published his letter on the Fiume affair. Americans were inclined to applaud his act as in strict conformity with his almost forgotten policy of "open covenants of peace, openly arrived at." At last, they thought, the president has abandoned secrecy and in the most delicate crisis of the conference has appealed to the judgment of the world. They imagined, perhaps, that the whole world would applaud this striking example of the "shirt-sleeve diplomacy" which has gained such a conspicuous and dominating place in the adjustment of international controversies.

We have been disillusioned in a fashion almost ludicrous. Instead of crying "Viva, Wilson and America!" the Italians cried "Viva America, abas Wilson!" Premier Orlando seized his hat, wildly cried, "I am insulted; Italy is insulted," and departed in a grand fury. The king of Italy sent him a telegram of congratulation and the Italian people everywhere flooded him with messages of praise. The poet D'Annunzio, the basso profundo of bathos, brayed his inspired asininities which seem to have a hypnotic effect on the Italians, for, whenever he utters martial discords which have not the slightest affinity with reason, they throw up their hats in a frenzy of patriotic fervor.

In our own country Wilson's act was held to be reasonable, but we did not understand the situation. In our ignorance we regarded Premier Orlando's reply as designed largely for political effect in Italy and expected to see Italian factions step over to the side of the president and salute the stars and stripes. What was our chagrin and disillusionment when all Italy stood solidly with the premier and began to name their "Wilson streets" after that cursed Fiume!

What was wrong, we begged leave to inquire?

After careful pondering we begin to see Wilson and his act as the Romans see them, and, as Lloyd-George and Clemenceau, see them.

If Wilson had dropped a bomb in the council chamber he could not have created more confusion and consternation.

Whereas we, at home, were inclined to pooh-pooh Orlando's complaint that the president violated the most sacred canons of diplomacy by appealing directly to the Italian people over the premier's head the

complaint was acclaimed by the Italian people and by the diplomats of Europe as wholly justified. They saw Wilson as nothing better than the proverbial bull in the china shop. He had scandalized Europe by his theatrical appeal to the Italian people to repudiate their government.

We must put ourselves in the place of the Europeans if we would appreciate their feelings in this crisis.

Suppose that the Mikado of Japan arrived in France and announced that he appeared on behalf of humanity and that he had decided on a plan for settling the affairs of Europe which he proposed to put into effect.

Suppose that the Mikado then proclaimed fourteen points for the government of the world, among them one point abrogating the Monroe doctrine and another taking sea supremacy away from Great Britain.

Suppose the parliament of Japan then passed a resolution declaring that the Mikado was acting without authority and that his compacts would not be considered binding by the constitutional law-making body of Japan.

What would Europe think of the Mikado and his assumption of supreme dictatorship?

And, then, if the Mikado published an open letter calling on some particular people to repudiate its government, would not Europe inquire whether the emperor of Japan had gone mad with power and egotism?

If we look at Wilson from this viewpoint we shall be able to sense in some degree the sentiments of Europeans regarding our president.

They watch his every move with alarm. What new blunder will he commit, what new hatreds will he engender, what new obstacles will be put in the way of peace, they ask, and turn wondering eyes upon each other in mute astonishment.

If a grizzly bear, wearing a high hat, a frock coat and a pair of spectacles, should escape from a menagerie in Paris, and bound through the streets seeking what he might rend and devour, the populace could not be more astonished than are the peace commissioners at the antics of President Wilson.

Too Much Republican Apathy

IT is a painful commentary on Republican efficiency in Utah that the state went Democratic when the trend of the country in general was overwhelmingly Republican. The people of the state awoke the day after election to find themselves completely out of tune with the remainder of the nation.

It is all very well to argue that everybody was out of step except Utah in the national march of progress, but it does not add to the

state's reputation for good sense, nor does it tend to increase our prestige.

There was no compelling reason why Utah should have placed itself in opposition to the country. We had just emerged from a war in which both parties had loyally supported the president's measures. Partisanship had been submerged in the united determination to achieve victory. Into this atmosphere of good feeling the president himself hurled poison gas. All of partisanship. The rest of the coun-